

State Representative Kathy Kreag Richardson

A Message from

PRE STD
US Postage
Paid
Permit No. 639
Indianapolis, IN
46204

State Representative Kathy Kreag Richardson

Room 401, Statehouse
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Easy Access to Your Government

State Information Center
1-800-45-STATE
Federal Information Center
1-800-688-9889
U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar
1-202-224-4814
Indianapolis Office
317-226-5555
U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
1-202-224-5623
Indianapolis Office
317-554-0750
Indiana House
1-800-382-9841
Indiana Senate
1-800-382-9467

Office of the Governor
317-232-4567
Secretary of State
317-232-6531
Medicaid Information
317-233-4455
Child Support Helpline
317-233-5437
Department of Education
317-232-6611
Department of Labor
317-232-2655
Indiana Department of Revenue
317-232-2240
Internal Revenue Service
1-800-829-1040



A Message from State Representative Kathy Kreag Richardson

This past legislative session required action and decisions on many crucial issues. One of the most important issues was to formulate Indiana's budget for the next two years. A budget that provides funding for critical government services including education, public safety, and Medicaid while not outspending our current revenue sources.

Another imperative task was devising and implementing an economic development strategy to restart Indiana's struggling economy. House Republicans were able to steer the debate this session toward economic development, which will bring Indiana's economy into the twenty-first century.

Many of you took the time to fill out my legislative survey at the start of the year, and I am grateful you provided me with feedback on your opinions. I have had the unique opportunity to meet and hear the concerns of many people in our district. Of course, I always appreciate input from constituents on issues and legislation that affect our area.

If you are interested in receiving information about issues in state government affecting our community, I would encourage you to email me at h29@in.gov and request to be added to my email update.

Now that the first session of the 113th Indiana General Assembly has concluded, it is my privilege to update you on changes to state law that may affect you. This post-session newsletter provides details on the major issues of session including the state's biennial budget and our economic development initiatives. You will also find news relating more specifically to our district and contact information so that you may keep me informed of any questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me whenever necessary.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kreag Richardson

Join my email update list by emailing me at h29@in.gov

For more information regarding the 2003 General Assembly, visit www.in.gov/legislative



How to Contact Representative Richardson:

Statehouse Office:
**Room 401, Statehouse
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

★ ★ ★

Statehouse Telephone:
232-9600

E-mail Address:
H29@in.gov

Visit my website
for more information at:

www.in.gov/H29

Right Track Indiana

I'm extremely proud of our efforts this session to improve Indiana's economic outlook. Our Right Track Indiana legislative agenda created a vision to redefine how government works and re-ignite our stalled economic engine. By putting forth a plan that creates jobs immediately and attracts investment to our state for the long-term, House Republicans have taken the first step to put Indiana on the right track.

While we still have much work ahead of us to rein in our state's spending habits, we are proud of our accomplishments on the economic growth front. In the end, we succeeded by having 19 of the 24 House Republican endorsed initiatives enacted this session.

Our consensus plan focused on four strategies to diversify Indiana's economy and attract new industries while sustaining our manufacturing sector and improving the environment for existing employers:

- **Redesigning Government** – To improve the way Indiana does business, making our state more marketable and setting benchmarks for continuous improvement.
- **Tax Structure Improvements** – To further enhance the Indiana tax code to offer incentives to private investment in both new equipment and skilled employees.
- **Strategic Investments** – To assist our universities, improve technology infrastructure, and assist rural economic development.
- **Targeted Incentives** – To support ailing economic sectors and take advantage of opportunities to create jobs.

The most significant breakthroughs include the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to restructure the way Indiana executes its statewide economic policy and a new Government Efficiency "Hoosier Grace" Commission established to clean up waste and inefficiency in state government. Both bodies will be appointed on July 1, 2003, and the new IEDC will take over all state commerce efforts in 2005. We also achieved record investment in the 21st Century Fund, Technology Parks, and incentives to attract high-wage employers to our state.

This year we accomplished one of our goals – a boost to economic opportunity for all Hoosiers. House Republicans will continue to focus on government efficiency and spending restraint as we work now to propel Indiana on the right track to fiscal integrity. For further details on our Right Track Indiana agenda, please visit our website at www.in.gov/legislative/house_republicans/.



Rep. Richardson confers with Caucus Members.

Indiana Votes

Do you have questions about voting, not sure where to go, can't find the numbers to call? I want to take this opportunity to provide you with the necessary information and resources you need to get out and vote.

As a member of the House Committee on Elections, I was pleased to cosponsor Senate Bill 268, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). This legislation, which was signed into law by Governor O'Bannon in early May, will bring many changes to Indiana's election procedures and incorporates federal election guidelines set by Congress following the 2000 election. HAVA is the most sweeping change in election law since the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am also pleased to serve as a member of the Vote Indiana Team, a select group of Hoosiers that reflect the diverse make-up of Indiana's voters. This team is working to create and submit Indiana's blueprint for election initiatives to the federal government by July. Federal dollars associated with HAVA will enable our state to make great strides in election reform. Indiana could receive as much as \$55 million from the federal government to update voting systems and implement this law. Under HAVA, counties will phase out the use of lever machines and punch card voting systems by January 1, 2006. Also among its provisions:

- **Development of a statewide voter list.**
- **Training & education of poll workers and voters to reduce the possibility of confusion and error.**
- **Ensured accessibility at each polling place for citizens with disabilities.**
- **Creation of the "Indiana Voter's Bill of Rights."**

This legislation is a big step toward ensuring that our election process utilizes the up-to-date technology available to us. I am proud that Indiana has been, and will continue to be, a leader when it comes to election law.

Questions on Voting?

Hamilton County Voter Registration:

317-776-9632 or www.co.hamilton.in.us

Hancock County Voter Registration:

317-462-1171

Secretary of State's Office:

317-232-6536 or 800-622-4941

Website: <http://www.sos.IN.gov>

Email: elections@iec.state.in.us

Indiana Information Center: 1-800-457-8283

Federal Information Center: 1-800-688-9889

Fiscal Discipline

At the close of the 2003 legislative session, the Indiana House of Representatives voted in favor of HB 1001, the state budget bill, by a vote of 61-37. Budget negotiators altered the legislation in conference committee to incorporate more spending, making the budget out of balance by about \$1.2 billion. Because the budget does little to address the state's structural deficit, I was unwilling to support it.

It is important for our state to have a well-balanced budget, but this legislation does nothing to address our structural deficit problems. While this budget funded education above the governor's requested level, many schools will still receive an inadequate amount to meet their needs of growing enrollment. I am also pleased the bill includes many Republican initiatives for economic development, but economic growth begins with a well-constructed budget based on fiscal responsibility.

Fiscal responsibility is important for the following reasons:

- Irresponsible budgets have resulted in our current \$850 million budget deficit.
- Over the six years from Fiscal Year 1995 to Fiscal Year 2001, state spending grew at an annual rate of 6.8% while revenues rose at only 4.2%, and inflation averaged only 1.8% annually.
- Our fiscal problems have arisen because our state's economy has been in decline for decades. In 1965, Indiana ranked 17th in the nation in per capita-income. By 2000, we had fallen to 33rd, the largest decline of any state.
- According to a 2002 study by the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute, if the state had maintained its 1965 ranking, it would now collect an additional \$1.5 billion a year in state and local taxes.

My main concern is that this budget continues to spend more money than the state is expected to receive in revenues. The structural deficit is \$776.6 million in fiscal year 2004, and \$544.3 million in fiscal year 2005. Although we have taken the first step toward improving Indiana's economic outlook, I could not support a state budget that outspends state revenue. Hoosiers are expected to live within their means, and state government should not be an exception.

Rep. Richardson speaks on HB 1769, which she authored. The bill passed both the House and Senate overwhelmingly and has been signed by the governor. The legislation permits counties to set the amount of the veterans' burial allowance up to \$1,000. The previous amount allowed was only \$125.



Hoosier Rx

Hoosier Rx, Indiana's prescription drug program for low-income seniors, has recently changed formats. Instead of being issued a refund check after the prescription is purchased, a senior enrolled in the program can simply present his/her plan membership card at the retailer to receive the benefits.

Hoosier Rx covers all drugs that require prescriptions, as well as insulin. The changes to this program will be phased in over the next few months. Listed below are several prescription assistance programs currently being offered to Hoosiers.

Hoosier Rx

- Indiana's own discount prescription drug program.
- Provides low-income seniors with up to 50% savings on medications.
- A yearly benefit of up to \$1000.

For additional information please call (866) 267-4679

Pfizer for Living Share Card

- Designed to provide a bridge for a target group of Medicare beneficiaries until a Medicare prescription drug benefit is established.
- Seniors pay \$15 for up to a 30-day supply of Pfizer medicine.
- Convenient prescription refills at retail pharmacy.
- Free health education materials.

For additional information please call (800) 717-6005

Connection to Care

- Medical office-based program.
- Provides nearly 30 Pfizer medications free of charge at the physician's request.

For additional information please call (800) 707-8990

Sharing the Care

- Pharmaceutical access program that donates Pfizer medications to low-income individuals through federally funded community, migrant and homeless health centers across the country.
- Developed in partnership with the National Governors Association and the National Association of Community Health Centers.

For additional information please call (800) 984-1500

LillyAnswers Card

- Provides discounted medications for low-income Hoosiers (annual individual income less than \$18,000, annual household income less than \$24,000).
- Seniors pay \$12 for a 30-day supply of any Lilly drug.
- Prescriptions are filled at participating retail pharmacies.
- Patient education and disease management tools.

For additional information please call (877) RX-LILLY 795-4559